

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of providing a program
2 L time units in length to a user, comprising the steps of:
3 transmitting said program L time units in length on a
4 first channel;

5 storing a first segment of said program received from
6 said first channel;

7 beginning the presentation of the stored first segment
8 of said program to the user;

9 receiving a second segment of said program at least L
10 time units after beginning to store the first segment of
11 said program; and

12 presenting to the user the second segment of said
13 program when the presentation of the first segment of said
14 program is completed.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended) The method of claim 1,
2 wherein receiving a second segment of said program includes
3 receiving said second segment from a second channel on
4 which said program L time units in length is transmitted,
5 the method further comprising the steps of:

6 storing program data included in the second segment of
7 said program while presenting at least a portion of the
8 first segment of said program to the user.

1 Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2, further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving program guide information; and

4 identifying, from the received program guide
5 information, a broadcast channel upon which the second
6 segment of said program is being broadcast.

1 Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 3,
2 wherein the first segment of said program is an
3 initial program segment;
4 wherein the second segment of said program is a main
5 program segment; and
6 wherein the second segment of said program is received
7 as part of a periodic broadcast of said first and second
8 segments of said program.

1 Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 3, further
2 comprising the step of:
3 selecting, from a plurality of broadcast channels upon
4 which the second segment of said program is being
5 broadcast, one of said broadcast channels from which to
6 receive the second segment of said program.

1 Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step
2 of selecting one of said broadcast channels includes the
3 step of selecting the first broadcast channel upon which
4 the second segment of said program will be transmitted at
5 or following the start of the presentation of the stored
6 first segment of said program to the user.

1 Claim 7 (original) The method of claim 6,
2 wherein the maximum delay between broadcasts of the
3 second program segment during a fixed time interval is C
4 time units, the step of storing a first segment of said

5 program including the step of storing at least C time units
6 of video data; and
7 wherein $L > C$.

1 Claim 8 (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the
2 maximum delay between broadcasts of the second program
3 segment is C time units, the step of storing a first
4 segment of said program including the step of storing at
5 least Y time units of video data, where $L > C \geq Y$.

1 Claim 9 (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the
2 method further comprises the step of:
3 broadcasting the first segment of said program which
4 is stored, on a first communications channel, prior to
5 performing the storing step; and
6 broadcasting the second segment of said program which
7 is presented to the user on a second communications channel
8 prior to performing the receiving step.

1 Claim 10 (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step
2 of storing program data corresponding to the second segment
3 of said program includes the step of storing program data
4 in a portion of a cache which is operated as a first-in,
5 first-out data structure.

1 Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the
2 step of:
3 beginning the presentation of the stored first segment
4 of said program to the user includes the steps of:
5 performing at least one of a descrambling operation
6 and a decrypting operation on at least some data included
7 in the first segment of said program; and

8 outputting video data generated as a function of
9 performing at least one of said descrambling operation and
10 decrypting operation to a presentation device.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended) A method of providing a
2 program to a user, comprising the steps of:

3 receiving on a first communications channel used to
4 transmit regional information, a first program segment;

5 storing the first segment of said program in a storage
6 device;

7 receiving a second program segment on a second
8 communications channel used to transmit non-regional
9 information, the first and second program segments
10 corresponding to the same program; and

11 presenting to the user the second segment of said
12 program immediately following the presentation of the first
13 segment of said program.

1 Claim 13 (original) The method of claim 12,

2 wherein the first and second communications channels
3 are different physical communication channels with
4 different carrier frequencies.

1 Claim 14 (original) The method of claim 12,

2 wherein the first and second communications channels
3 are different logical communication channels implemented
4 using the same physical communications channel.

1 Claim 15 (original) The method of claim 12,

2 wherein said program is a user selected program; and
3 wherein the first segment of said program is one of a
4 first plurality of program segments transmitted on the

5 first communications channel, the method further comprising
6 the step of:

7 storing, in the storage device, additional program
8 segments included in the first plurality of program
9 segments; and

10 accessing information indicating which program
11 segments correspond to said user selected program.

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1 Claim 16 (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the
2 accessed information further includes information about the
3 order in which the segments corresponding to the user
4 selected program are to be presented.

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1 Claim 17 (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the
2 accessed information indicates that a first one of the
3 additional program segments is to be presented immediately
4 following the second program segment, the method further
5 comprising the step of:

6 presenting to the user a first one of the additional
7 program segments immediately following the presentation of
8 the second program segment.

1 Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 17, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 presenting to the user a second one of the additional
4 program segments immediately following the presentation of
5 the first additional program segment.

1 Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 17,

2 wherein the first program segment is a regional news
3 segment, the second program segment is a non-regional news

4 segment, and the first additional program segment is a
5 regional news segment.

1 Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the
2 second program segment is presented to the user without
3 being stored in said storage device.

1 Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the
2 first program segment is a regional news segment, and the
3 second program segment is a non-regional news segment.

1 22. (canceled)

1 Claim 23 (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the
2 second segment of said program is a regional advertising
3 segment.

1 Claim 24 (original) The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising the step of:
3 beginning the presentation of the stored first segment
4 of said program to the user at or prior to performing the
5 step of receiving a second segment of said program.

1 Claim 25 (original) The method of claim 24, further
2 comprising the step of:
3 storing at least a portion of the second program
4 segment prior to presenting the second program segment to
5 the user.

1 Claim 26 (original) The method of claim 25,
2 wherein the first segment of said program is an
3 initial portion of a movie; and

4 wherein the second segment of said program is a main
5 portion of said movie, the initial and main portions of
6 said movie forming a complete version of said movie.

1 Claims 27-32 (canceled)

1 Claim 33 (currently amended) A method of providing
2 regional and non-regional program data to a plurality of
3 users, the method comprising the steps of:

4 broadcasting a plurality of regional program segments
5 on a first communications channel;

6 operating a plurality of user devices to store the
7 regional program segments in a cache included in each of
8 the plurality of user devices;

9 broadcasting program segment information about a
10 plurality of regional programs, the program segment
11 information for each regional program indicating the
12 program segments included in the regional program;

13 broadcasting non-regional program segments on a second
14 communications channel after operating the user devices to
15 store the regional program segments; and

16 operating the user device to present at least one
17 regional program segment to the user by presenting at least
18 one cached regional program segment and a broadcast non-
19 regional program segment to the user.

1 Claim 34 (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the
2 broadcast program segment information further includes
3 information about the time at which each of the program
4 segments included in a regional program is to be presented.

1 Claim 35 (original) The method of claim 34,

2 wherein the step of broadcasting a plurality of
3 regional program segments includes the step of operating a
4 satellite to transmit the regional program segments to the
5 user device; and

6 wherein the user device is a satellite receiver
7 located at the premises of one of a plurality of users.

1 Claim 36 (original) The method of claim 33,

2 wherein the regional program segments are regional
3 news segments and wherein the non-regional program segments
4 are non-regional news segments.

1 Claim 37 (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the

2 regional program segments are regional advertising segments
3 and the non-regional program segments are television
4 program segments.

1 Claims 38-41 (canceled)

1 Claim 42 (currently amended) A device for processing
2 program segments, comprising:

3 a cache for storing program segments;

4 means for receiving on a first communications channel
5 used to transmit regional program segments, a first program
6 segment;

7 a cache controller for storing the program segment in
8 the cache;

9 means for receiving a second program segment on a
10 second communications channel used to transmit non-regional
11 program segments, the first and second program segments
12 corresponding to the same program; and

13 means for presenting to the user the second segment of
14 said program immediately following the presentation of the
15 first segment of said program.

1 Claim 43 (original) The device of claim 42, further
2 comprising:

3 means for accessing program information indicating
4 which program segments are included in said program and the
5 time at which at least one of the included program segments
6 will be broadcast.

1 Claim 44 (original) The device of claim 42, wherein the
2 program is a movie, the first program segment is an initial
3 portion of the movie and second program segment is a main
4 portion of said movie.

1 Claim 45 (original) The device of claim 43, wherein the
2 program is a regional news program, wherein the first
3 program segment is a regional news program segment; and
4 wherein the second program segment is a non-regional news
5 program segment.

1 Claim 46 (original) The device of claim 39, wherein the
2 second program segment is a regional advertising segment.

1 Claim 47 (original) The device of claim 46, wherein the
2 first program segment is a television program segment.

1 Claim 48 (canceled)

1 Claim 49 (currently amended) A system for providing
2 regional and non-regional news to a plurality of users, the
3 system comprising:

4 a server for broadcasting a plurality of regional news
5 segments on a first communications channel, non-regional
6 news segments on a second communications channel and
7 program information indicating the news segments included
8 in each of a plurality of non-regional news segments;

9 a plurality of user devices in communication with said
10 server, at least some of the user devices being located at
11 different subscriber premises which are physically remote
12 from each other and the server;

13 each of the plurality of said user devices including:
14 a cache for storing regional news segments;

15 means for accessing the broadcast program segment
16 information to identify regional and non-regional news
17 segments which are included in a non-regional news program;

18 means for presenting at least one regional news
19 program by outputting at least one cached regional news
20 segment and by outputting, immediately following the output
21 regional news segment, at least one non-regional news
22 segment corresponding included in the same regional news
23 program as the output non-regional news segment.
